

22 April 2025

Clarification on the reference period in the IDI

A participant to the joint EGTI/EGH subgroup on the ICT Development Index (IDI) submitted a [proposal](#) concerning the reference period used in the IDI. The Secretariat welcomes the proposal and would like to provide clarification to the group.

One of the key objectives of the [IDI](#) is to provide the most recent assessment, within the constraints of data availability and consistency. The criteria used to determine the data points used in the computation of the IDI form part of the [methodology](#) approved by Member States in 2023.

For any edition of the IDI, the reference year for all indicators—including price indicators—is two years prior to the edition year. If official data are not available for the reference year, data from the previous year are used. If those are also unavailable, an estimate for the reference year is applied. The table below summarizes the reference years used in recent and upcoming editions of the IDI:

IDI edition	2023	2024	2025
Reference year for all indicators (including price indicators)	2021	2022	2023
If no official data available for reference year, use official data from previous year	2020	2021	2022
If no official data available for either, use estimate for reference year	2021	2022	2023
Year for GNI per capita data used in price indicators*	2020	2021	2022

* For price indicators, GNI per capita data from the previous year is used in the computation because GNI figures are not yet available [during the data collection year](#). Price indicators are calculated in the same year and are not subsequently re-computed for IDI purposes, to maintain consistency and avoid producing multiple values for the same reference year. For example, the 2025 edition of the IDI will use 2023 price data [\(aligned with the rest of the indicators\)](#), calculated in 2023 using GNI per capita from 2022, as 2023 GNI data was not yet available. Although the 2023 GNI figures are now available, recalculating the price indicators would result in ITU reporting two different values for the same reference year, which would undermine consistency. [Note also that GNI figures are frequently revised retroactively.](#)

Commented [DV1]: Can also mention: and at the time of publication

In 2025, the schedule for the ICT price data questionnaires, the ICT administrative data questionnaire, and the ICT household data questionnaire was revised and streamlined. This was part of a broader effort across BDT to minimize overlap and alleviate the reporting burden, in response to feedback from Member States (see [consolidated schedule](#)).

Looking ahead, the revised schedule may allow – although it cannot be guaranteed – for a shorter lag between the IDI edition and its reference ~~year~~[period](#).